MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

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VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE TO THE FARMERS IS DISCUSSED

College Park, Md., Aug. 16.

The Allied Farmers' Associations of Cecil county held a most successful meeting at Port Deposit on Saturday last as guests of Tome Institute. Dr. H. J. Patterson represented the Agricultural College on the program, speaking on the work of the institution in the State. The value of the Agricultural College to the farmers of the State was the subject of discussion or reference by a number of prominent speakers on the day's program, including the candidates for Governor, Messrs. Lee and Harrington, and Prof. Alva Agee of New Jersey. The leading address of the day by Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, was of especial timeliness and interest in view of the fact that it contained many points of practical value to the Maryland farmer. He said in part :—

"It is to the agricultural college that the farmers of the Sonth in general, and of Georgia in particular, owe a great opportunity which has presented itself to them. They have learned well the scientific methods taught in the colleges devoted to agriculture and have studied how to cultivate their soil so that it now yields much larger crops than ever before.

"There is one thing I can tell you farmers in Maryland, and that is that an adequately equipped and well-supported agricultural college is the greatest boon you can possibly have. The results of its teachings are being made very plain to you in larger crops and the consequent increase in land value on your farms.

"I regard the culture, study and improvement of conditions of rural life as a high patriotic purpose, and it is the undeniable duty of the State to advance these things through the medium of a strong agricultural college and a widely distributed experimental department.

"It is the study of soil conditions and the development of their land to the highest possible point that has enabled the Germans to make such a remarkable fight in the European war. Sixty years ago their teachers went forth from agricultural schools and showed the small farmers how to use their land. Now, because of that teaching, the Germans are able to stand alone, cut off from all the world.

"I don't know much about Maryland farming, but I can tell the farmers of the Eastern Shore another thing that will interest them. I believe in co-operative methods where shipments of products are concerned, and organization is without doubt an advantage in nearly all lines of life. The Sherman Anti-Trust law says that when a body of men decide to use co-operative methods it becomes a trust, but that law does not apply to the farmers, and they should organize for their mutual benefit.

"The Eastern Shore of Maryland can do something with the aid of co-operation that it could never do without. If Eastern Shore farmers would get together on shipments of their products they could supply far away points more cheaply than they can now and could therefore devote more to the cultivation of their soil and the raising of still larger crops.

"The need of co-operation is apparent and I am glad to see an evidence that it is being given at least a tentative trial through the medium of this allied group of associations."

GIVES DIRECTIONS FOR SEEDING ALFALFA ON VISIT TO COUNTY AGENT

College Park, Md., Aug. 18.

On a recent visit to Worcester county, Prof. Nickolas Schmitz, of the Maryland Experiment Station, examined with County Agent Munroe, a number of fields where alfalfa will be planted. His suggestions at the time were most practical, and it would be well for any prospective grower of alfalfa to read them thoroughly, to avoid mistakes, in fact, delay seeding alfalfa until another year rather than to be disappointed in a poor stand.

Prof. Schmitz said of one place visited as follows:

"The land which I inspected for you for alfalfa is only fairly well suited to this crop. You could expect a field such as this to last you on the average about three years, possibly not more than two, of course there is a possibility of your having good luck and it lasting five. They ield hould be about three tons per acres with a possibility of it running up to four. In order to get the land ready for alfalfa you would have to plow it immediately and get at least one or two good soaking rains in order to settle it well before it will be in condition for seeding the crop. You will facilitate getting the land in order by discing it first. The seeding should be done the latter part of August or the first of September, although you might succeed as late as the 20th. Lime at the rate of one ton per acre, if you use caustic lump lime, 2500 pounds if you use hydrated lime, or two tons if you use the ground limestone or the ground oyster shell. It makes no difference which you use as far as the effect upon the alfalfa is concerned. It is a question of convenience and ex-

pense rather than effect upon the crop. The alfalfa land should be limed before the seed is sown and worked into the soil. Just before seeding, apply about 500 pounds of acid rock, and do the same thing along about the latter part of March or the first of April. If you have good clean barnyard manure, it is better than any commercial fertilizer you can use. Woodashes, however, are better than manure for alfalfa, in fact, if you can use 1000 pounds per acre of ashes you can figure on a successful field of alfalfa for five years. The seed should be sown broadcast and covered the same as you woul crimson clover. If you sow after a rain and a dry spell should follow it would be advisable to roll, but if you get heavy rains after seeding, then rolling would be of no value and might be detrimental. Perhaps as good a scheme as any would be for you to wait another year or two before putting the land in alfalfa on account of the difficulty you may have in getting a firm seedbed, and also because the land is rather too well supplied with seeds of weeds. In that case, I would work it so that you could follow the alfalfa after early potatoes or some small grain crop such as oats or wheat, but the best crop is early potatoes. Of course you can also follow it after tomatoes; in fact any crop you can get off the land in time to prepare a firm seedbed by the last of August or the first of September. Use American grown seed at the rate of about 25 pounds per acre. Inoculate the seed with culture or the soil with soil from an old alfalfa field or sweet clover patch. The simplest way would be to secure the culture through Mr. Munroe. ' You can do everything else, but leave out the inoculation, and you are pretty sure to fail."

AGENT MARSH HAS PROMISING CORN CLUB IN CECIL COUNTY

College Park, Md., Aug. 20.

One of the most promising counties in the State in its prospects for Boys' Corn Club competion is Cecil county. Agricultural Agent G. F. Marsh has an enrollment of 52 members from which only a few have as yet withdrawn this season. He was recently visited by Assistant State Agent in Charge of Boys' Club Work Reuben Brigham, with whom he covered the county, visiting 14 boys and attending meetings of two local corn clubs with a membership of between 20 and 25. The idea of forming local boys' agricultural clubs is meeting with favor among both boys and parents in Cecil county. It encourages more lively interest and competition among the boys growing corn It also gives the parents a feeling that they are giving their boys something that will give them both enjoyment and benefit. This inclination on the part of parents to boost the boy's game is unusually marked in this section. A people who want to give their children every reasonable opportunity to grow up satisfied with their community life come as near being real farmers as one can find anywhere. County Agent Marsh is on the right track when he believes that the boy crop is the most important in any community and one which the county agent should give every encouragement to. The best way to convince a man or woman of the value of yourself to them in community work is by showing how it may benefit their children. County Agent Marsh has this idea in working order.

IS ERECTING CEMENT SILO AS A DEMONSTRATION

College Park, Md., Aug. 20.

Agricultural Agent John McGill, Jr., of Alleghany county is cooperating with G. E. Wolcott of the Maryland Experiment Station in the erection of a cement silo on the farm of Mr. Annan, near Cumberland. This is the first silo of its kind to be erected in the county, those in use being of wood or tile. The silo will be 14x34, with a capacity of 119 tons. Mr. McGill is giving the erection of this silo his personal supervision as it is to be a demonstration in silo building for his county. When its construction is sufficiently advanced, Mr. McGill will send a general invitation to farmers in that section to visit the farm and see for themselves the good poi .ts of the cement silo, which form on account of its comparatively low cost and durability is being recommended to farmers by the Co-operative Extension Service of the Maryland Agricultural College and U. S. Department of Agriculture.

County Agent McGill is also taking active steps to secure the cooperation of school teachers in his county in boys' and girls' club work. In this work he is receiving the cordial support of the County Superintendent, Mr. Edwards. Mr. McGill will lecture to the teachers of Alleghany county during their institute which will be held during the first week in September.

BIG AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND COMES TO A SUCCESSFUL CLOSE.

College Park, Md., Aug. 21.

After a three-days' strenuous campaign, in which over one thousand farmers in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties were visited in their own neighborhoods by speakers from the Maryland Agricultural College and U. S. Department of Agriculture, the tour came to a close with a mass meeting in the courthouse at Leonardtown.

The object of the campaign,which was carried on under the auspices of the demonstration branch of the Cooperative Extension Service of the Maryland Agricultural College and U. S. Department of Agriculture, was to inform local farmers more thoroughly of the purposes of county agent work, and explain, in a practical way, how the county agent can best be used by farmers in promoting improved methods of agriculture.

Especial attention was paid to the encouraging of three definite lines of improvement which especially com-

mend themselves to Southern Maryland, namely, the Use of legumes, particularly cowpeas, soy beans, andvers and alfalfa; secondly, the growing of more and better live stock; and, lastly, the organization of the farmers and farm women of this section into farmers' clubs, granges and neighborhood improvement associations.

There seems no question in the mind of those who have studied Southern Maryland conditions but what the section is unusually blessed with a soil capable of rapid improvement, and with its long-growing seasons that make it possible to make growth unknown in less favored sections of the State. The great need in this section is the adoption of a more universal system of soil building and community organization. In suggesting the use of legume crops in improving the soil, conserving moisture and fertility, and in providing an economical feed for livestock, the speakers were able to point out a large number of successful demonstrations of this sort that have been already carried out in these counties under direction of the local county agent. The speakers also had the opportunity to see some of the best fields of cowpeas and alfalfa grown in the both State and in Southern Maryland on this trip, showing what can be done where the farmer is awakened to the possibilities of his soil and taken steps forward in building up its fertility.

The same experienee in a lesser degree was true of the livestock proposition. There were a few, a very few, herds of cattle, hogs and sheep, but far less than Southern Maryland farmers should be maintaining in a country so wonderfully adaptad to growing pasturage and economical field crops for livestock. There is no question but that there is a remarkable field open in this section for the growing and fattening of high-grade livestock of every sort. Further, there is nothing that the soil of this section is as badly in need of as of farm manure. It is the great solution to the problem of fertility, to the growing of enough feed for producing more and better livestock and furnishing the means to develop a prosperous community life. One speaker hit the nail on the head when he said that the people of Southern Maryland, in setting such splendid tables for themselves and their visitors, forgot in their hospitality the hunger of the soil and livestock for a few square meals on their own account. Also that they should remember that such a home and community life as they aspired to in view of their comparatively old civilization required a substantial basis for its continuance and improvement. They must develop a universal system of farming whereby their land can be built up and kept at a maximum fertility. They must develop the growing of more and better livestock until they should be able to fill the demands of their own people, and then grow plenty for outside markets as well. It is sound business for a community to be as far as possible self-sustaining, not only in feeding itself, but in keeping in the county the money that is so often spent for improved seed and livestock that might just as well be grown at home.

The value of organization both among adults and among the boys and girls was repeatedly emphasized by the speakers. It was pointed out that even under an improved system of legume and livestock production adequate returns for their effort would not be received without concerted action in every community needs and interests. Only through organization into farmers' clubs or improvement associations can the farmers of a neighborhood get together and discourse in an informal way the problems of their farms and communities. Only through the efforts of the farmers themselves can these problems be solved or any satisfactory system of conservation of soil and the resources of the county concerned be worked out. For instance, the present large amounts of money spent in commercial fertilizers is in a large measure sheer waste and loss. These commercial fertilizers will not replace the fertility that is up by the use of legumes and farm built manure, yet until the farmers of each community get together and work on this problem themselves and find the best substitutes to grow for the fertilizers they are not going to solve the problem.

In all these activities that tend toward the use of legumes, the growing of more and better livestock, and the development of genuine community co-operation and organization the County Agricultural Agent should work actively with every farmer, farm woman, or farm organization that has those ends in view. The people of any neighborhood or any section who do not avail themselves to the full use of their county agent and the helpful agencies which he represents are making a mistake. He is an asset which should be made use of to the limit of his ability.

The success of the campaign should in a large measure be credited to the interest and active efforts of the county agents and their able local committees who cared so well for the comfort of their visitors. The schedule for the three days was a strenuous one, meetings being held in the neighborhood of Chaneyville, Huntington, Prince Frederick and Lusbys in Calvert county, on the 18th; at Bel Alton, Wicomico, Wayside, Tomkinsville, McConchie, Welcome, and Grayton, on the 19th; and Ridge, Pearsons, St. Inigoes, California, Hughesville, Mechanicsville, Chaptico, Clements, Oakley, Morganza, Beauvue, Valley Lee, Hollywood and Leonardtown in St. Mary's county, on the 20th. In addition to County Agents J. H. Drury of Calvert county, W. R. Linthicum of Charles, and G. F. Wathen, Jr., of St. Mary's, the speakers were as follows: U. S. Department of Agriculture, J. M. Jones, Supervising Field Agent; O. B. Martin, Agent in Charge of Boys' and Girls' Club Work. Maryland Agricultural College, H. J. Patterson, President; T. B. Symons, Director of Extension; Dr. R. S. Hill, Director of Farmers' Institutes; F. B. Bomberger, Professor of Economics; S. B. Shaw, Orchard Specialist; C. E. Temple, Plant Disease Specialist; G. H. Alford, State Demonstration Agent; Reuben Brigham, Assistant State Agent in Charge of Boys' Club Work.